

REMARKS

Claims 1-26, listed above, are presently pending in the application. Applicants amend claims 1 and 19, and add new claims 27 and 28. Support for the amendments and the new claim can be found on pages 4-6 and 33-37, and throughout the remainder of the specification. Thus, no new matter is added.

Information Disclosure Statement

In response to the Examiner's request for legible copies of each reference listed in the information disclosure statement, copies of those references that were not marked by the Examiner as having been reviewed are enclosed.

Formal Drawings

Formal drawing corresponding to those that were submitted with the preliminary amendment of December 5, 2000, i.e., FIGURES 9, 16C, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 26, 35, and 55 (A, B, C), are enclosed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Office Action rejects claim 18 as lacking an antecedent for the phrase "the user interface". Claim 18 is amended to depend on claim 2, rather than claim 1, to overcome this rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7, 14-18, 19-21, 23, and 25-26 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,748,896 of Daly.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a method of managing a telecommunications network that includes generating a plurality of user profiles, each of which provides a network management access to a user. Each profile defines network management capabilities that are assigned to a respective user. The method also includes listing network devices capable of being managed through the user profiles.

Daly is directed to a network management system that allows a network administrator to manage network services provided on different servers. The system includes a component repository that contains service components, each of which corresponds to a network service (e.g., email service), and service objects, each associated with a service, that can communicate with the servers to obtain information regarding instantiations of the services executing on those servers. A service manager component receives data regarding instantiation of services from the corresponding service objects. The service manager includes a user interface (i.e. a service manager window) that can display the information regarding instantiations of the services to the administrator. A User/Group (U/G) component can allow the administrator to administer users/groups on a server. The network administrator can employ the U/G component to obtain the list of users or groups registered with a particular server, and can edit, delete, or add new users and groups using that server. (col. 10, line 19-44)

Daly does not teach or suggest generating user profiles that would provide *management* access to a plurality of users. In particular, the user/group (U/G) component in Daly simply allows an administrator to manage services available to users and/or groups of users. It does not generate user profiles that would provide the users with customized management access, e.g., ability to configure network devices within the scope of a profile. In other words, in the Daly's system, different scopes of management access and capability are not assigned to a plurality of users based on pre-defined user profiles. Rather, it is only a single administrator that enjoys access to management capabilities. Hence, claim 1 distinguishes patentably over claim 1.

Claims 2-7 and 14-18 depend, either directly or indirectly on claim 1, and hence contain the features of claim 1. Hence, similar to claim 1, these claims are also patentable over Daly.

Independent claim 19, as amended, recites a method of managing a telecommunications network comprising adding user profiles to a network management system and editing parameters in the profiles to establish management capabilities assigned to one or more users associated with that profile and a list of devices that can be managed through the profile.

As discussed in detail above, Daly does not teach or suggest generating user profiles for providing customized management capabilities of a network to a plurality of users. Hence, Daly fails to teach at least a material feature of claim 19.

Claims 20-21, 23, and 25-26 depend, either directly or indirectly, on claim 19, and hence are also patentable.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejects claims 8-13, 22, and 24 as being obvious over Daly in view of what the Examiner characterizes as technology known in the art.

Claim 8-13 depend on claim 1, and hence incorporate its patentable features. As noted above, Daly fails to teach at least one of these patentable features: providing user profiles for assigning to each of a plurality of users management access. The Examiner does not provide any references that would bridge this shortcoming of Daly. In fact, the Examiner simply asserts that additional features recited in the rejected dependent claims are known in the art. The Examiner, however, does not present any references to corroborate his assertion. Even if one assumes that the additional features are known – an assumption not buttressed by any cited reference – the basic feature regarding generating user profiles for network management remains beyond the combined teachings of Daly and what the Examiner characterizes as known art. The arguments above in connection with claims 8-13 apply with equal force to establish that claims 22 and 24, which depend on claim 19, are also patentable. New claims 27 and 28 depend directly on claim 1, and hence contain the features of claim 1. Hence, similar to claim 1, these claims are also patentable over Daly.

Conclusions

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the application. Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned at (617) 439-2514 if there are any remaining issues.

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Respectfully submitted,

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